Post 3/1/79

Top Ex-Agent Cleared by CIA

Associated Press

The CIA says it thoroughly examined and then rejected an accusation that a high-level agent was a Soviet spy.

CIA spokesman Herb Hetu confirmed Tuesday that, in the mid-1970s, an agency employe accused former counterintelligence chief James Angleton of working for the Soviets, but said the charges were thoroughly examined and rejected.

Hetu said the investigation was carried out within the CIA.

Angleton and three top aides were forced into retirement in 1974. Then-director William E. Colby said earlier this week that he never had any doubts about Angleton's loyalty. Instead, Colby reported removed Angelton because of a lack of results from Angelton's long search for a possible spy within the CIA.